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Dennis J. Duffin
Director

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of Campaign & Political Finance

One Ashburton Place, Boston 02108

727-8352

AO-1984-12

August 30, 1984

Ms. Mary Ann Hart
Acting Executive Director
Massachusetts Nurses Association
376 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Ms. Hart:

This letter is in response to your recent request to our office for an advisory opinion relative to certain activities of the Massachusetts Nurses Association and NURSE-PLAN. Your questions, and the appropriate answers, are as follows:

1. Question: Would it be improper or incorrect to state the "the Massachusetts Nurses Association has endorsed" a particular candidate? NURSE-PLAN, the PAC of MNA, actually votes on the endorsements on behalf of the MNA. The "Members" of NURSE-PLAN are the members of the MNA.

Answer: G.L. c. 55, the campaign finance law, does not prohibit such an endorsement.

2. Question: May incidental costs of administering the PAC be borne by the MNA, as long as NURSE-PLAN lists on their campaign finance report that contribution as an "in-kind" contribution.

Answer: Yes, although such contributions in-kind are subject to all the contribution limits contained in Chapter 55. For example, if the MNA is a business corporation, or is comprised of business corporations, it may not contribute anything of value, in any manner, to the MNA PAC, since such corporations are prohibited from any participation in candidate campaign financing.

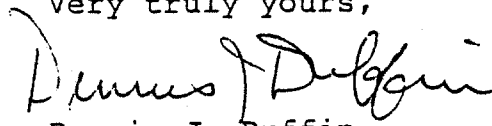
3. Question: Should contributions to candidates come directly out of the PAC funds.

Ms. Hart
August 30, 1984
Page 2

Answer: Yes.

This opinion has been rendered solely on the basis of facts as represented by you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dennis J. Duffin".

Dennis J. Duffin
Director

DJD/rep